

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. In an electronic device, a method of notification comprising the steps of:

 a) receiving a first attention request from a first application and associated with a first record entry in said first application requiring attention from a user;

10 b) automatically storing said first attention request in a memory;

 c) automatically sending a first request for information to said first application, said information associated with said first record entry;

15 d) receiving said information;

 e) creating a notification dialog using said information; and

 f) automatically displaying said notification dialog on top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second
20 application that is active.

 2. The method as described in Claim 1, comprising the further step of:

 determining a plurality of outstanding attention
25 requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from said user,

said plurality of outstanding attention requests including
said first attention request.

3. The method as described in Claim 2, further
5 comprising the step of deleting from memory each of said
plurality of outstanding attention requests that have been
cleared and no longer need said user's attention.

4. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said
10 step c) comprises the steps of:

determining if any of said plurality of outstanding
attention requests have been suspended;

requesting said information in a list format if there at
least two outstanding attention requests, from said plurality
15 of attention requests, that are not currently suspended, said
list format suitable for listing with multiple outstanding
attention requests on a display screen of said electronic
device; and

requesting from each of said plurality of attention
20 requests corresponding information in said list format.

5. The method as described in Claim 4, wherein said
notification dialog is a list dialog containing each of said
plurality of outstanding attention requests that have not
25 been suspended in said list format.

6. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said step c) comprises the step of:

requesting said information in detail format if each of said outstanding attention requests except for said first
5 attention request is suspended, said detail format suitable for singular display on said electronic handheld device.

7. The method as described in Claim 6, wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and pertains to said
10 first attention request.

8. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said step c) comprises the step of:

requesting said information in detail format if said
15 plurality of outstanding attention requests contains only said first attention request.

9. The method as described in Claim 8, wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and pertains only to
20 said first attention request.

10. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said electronic device is a palm sized computer system.

25 11. In an electronic device, a method of notification comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a first attention request from a first application and associated with a first record entry in said first application requiring attention from a user;

b) automatically storing said first attention request
5 in a memory;

c) determining a plurality of outstanding attention requests wherein each are associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from
10 said user, said plurality of outstanding attention requests including said first attention request;

d) automatically sending a first request for information to said first application, said information being associated with said first record entry;

15 e) receiving said information;

f) creating a first notification dialog using said information; and

g) automatically displaying said first notification dialog on top of an on-screen display associated with a
20 second application that is active.

12. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising the further steps of:

receiving a display request to display a selected record
25 entry, said selected record entry associated with a selected attention request from said plurality of outstanding attention requests;

automatically switching from said second application to
a third application, said third application associated with
said selected record entry;

displaying said selected record entry; and

5 providing user interface with said selected record entry
through said second application.

13. The method as described in Claim 12, comprising
the further steps of:

10 automatically launching said third application; and
automatically sending said display request to said third
application.

14. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising
15 the further steps of:

receiving a request to clear a selected attention
request, said selected attention request taken from said
plurality of outstanding attention requests; and

clearing said selected attention request by deleting
20 said selected attention request from said memory.

15. The method as described in Claim 14, wherein said
selected attention request is said plurality of outstanding
attention requests.

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16. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising
the further steps of:

h) receiving a request to suspend said plurality of outstanding attention requests;

i) suspending each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests for a predetermined period of time;

5 j) re-activating said second application; and

k) displaying said plurality of outstanding attention requests after said predetermined period of time has elapsed in a second notification dialog.

10 17. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising the further step of:

invoking an alarm simultaneously with step g), said alarm is taken from a group consisting essentially of:

a audible alarm;

15 a visual alarm;

a vibrator;

a flashing light emitting diode (LED); and

flashing said notification dialog between video and reverse video formats.

20 18. A computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, and a display screen wherein said memory contains instructions that when executed implement a method of notification comprising the steps of:

25 a) receiving a first attention request from a first application and associated with a first record entry in said first application requiring attention from a user;

b) automatically storing said first attention request
in a memory;

c) automatically sending a first request for
information to said first application, said information
5 associated with said first record entry;

d) receiving said information;

e) creating a notification dialog using said
information; and

f) automatically displaying said notification dialog on
10 top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second
application that is active.

19. The computer system as described in Claim 18,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

15 determining a plurality of outstanding attention
requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry
and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding
attention requests still requiring attention from said user,
said plurality of outstanding attention requests including
20 said first attention request.

20. The computer system as described in Claim 19,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

deleting from memory each of said plurality of
25 outstanding attention requests that have been cleared and no
longer need said user's attention.

21. The computer system as described in Claim 19,
wherein said step c) of said method comprises the steps of:

determining if any of said plurality of outstanding
attention requests have been suspended;

5 requesting said information in a list format if there at
least two outstanding attention requests, from said plurality
of attention requests, that are not currently suspended, said
list format suitable for listing with multiple outstanding
attention requests on a display screen of said electronic
10 device; and

requesting from each of said plurality of attention
requests corresponding information in said list format.

22. The computer system as described in Claim 21,
15 wherein said notification dialog is a list dialog containing
each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests that
have not been suspended in said list format.

23. The computer system as described in Claim 19,
20 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the step of:

requesting said information in detail format if each of
said outstanding attention requests except for said first
attention request is suspended, said detail format suitable
for singular display on said electronic handheld device.

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24. The computer system as described in Claim 23,
wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and
pertains to said first attention request.

5 25. The computer system as described in Claim 19,
wherein said step c) of said method comprises the step of:
requesting said information in detail format if said
plurality of outstanding attention requests contains only
said first attention request.

10 26. The computer system as described in Claim 19,
wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and
pertains only to said first attention request.

15 27. The computer system as described in Claim 18,
wherein said electronic device is a palm sized computer
system.

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